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**An  
Agricultural  
Policy  
that is  
Efficient**

1919



***Leadership  
that means  
Service and  
Stability***

# Agriculture

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The progressive policy of the Hearst Government toward agriculture has been maintained in fulfilment of the announcement by Sir William Hearst on assuming the leadership in October, 1914. During the years of the war that policy has aimed first to achieve a maximum of production, second, to better in every way the conditions under which the industry is carried on, and, third, to improve the standard and quality of farm products in Ontario as would insure for the Province continued leadership in agriculture in this country.

Agriculture has received more representation in the Hearst Cabinet than in any other Ministry in the history of the Province. There has always been one farmer in the Cabinet, and for the most part there have been two, which is the case at the present time.

In 1904 the expenditure on agriculture was \$475,000. For 1918 the expenditure by the Hearst Government was \$1,508,000. According to the Bureau of Industries statistics the total value of the agricultural assets of the Province in 1904 was \$1,127,915,338. In 1917 these assets amounted to \$1,572,069,071, an increase of \$444,154,733. For 1918 the value of the farm products of Ontario was:

|                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Field Crops .....   | \$364,037,617       |
| Live Stock .....    | 100,000,000         |
| Dairy Produce ..... | 80,000,000          |
| Total .....         | <hr/> \$544,037,617 |

## Food Production

In reviewing the agricultural policy of the Government it is important to go back to the commencement of the war in 1914. Following the outbreak of hostilities and the consequent dislocation of trade, Great Britain was compelled to look to the North American continent—and especially Canada—for her supplies of foodstuffs.

A series of patriotic and production meetings were held, with a view to laying before the farmers the situation in the matter of food production and to disseminate information which would be helpful. In addition to these meetings, the regular meetings of the Department as well as the Departmental publicity work emphasized the need.

In the winter of 1916-17, following the very adverse weather and consequent short crop of 1916, and the loss of shipments by reason of Germany's policy of unrestricted submarine warfare, a further campaign was carried on consisting of meetings, literature, distribution of special bulletins, and publicity work generally. In February, 1917, a special campaign was launched with a view to encouraging backyard gardening and \$20,000 was spent for this purpose with very excellent results.

The crop shortage had also a serious effect on the supply of staple needs in many lines. The Department, therefore, undertook to secure a supply of seed potatoes, oats, beans, and other lines, which it distributed to the farmers at cost. It was found, however, that many farmers were unable to pay cash for their seed, even if it was obtainable, and here the Government again provided a remedy. An arrangement was made with the Canadian Bankers Association and the Organization of Resources Committee, whereby the banks throughout the country would advance to farmers a sum of money up to \$200 to assist them in the purchase of seed and thus insure a maximum production.

The sum of \$296,915 was utilized for this purpose rendering very practical help in hundreds of cases.

### Tractor Service

In 1917 the Department undertook to assist the farmers by supplying tractors and in this way relieve the labor shortage as far as possible and demonstrate the usefulness of the farm tractor. This work was continued throughout the seasons of 1917 and 1918 in accordance with the demand. In all the Department purchased 129 tractors and these were distributed in almost every county in the Province, being placed at the disposal of the farmers on a basis approximating the cost of operation. In all between 40,000 and 50,000 acres were ploughed and between 6,000 and 7,000 acres were cultivated as a result of this service.

In addition the Department in co-operation with the Federal authorities, distributed at cost 200 popular priced tractors, thus saving to the farmers of the Province a total of \$40,000. The result has not only been a very substantial addition to the food production of the Province but great interest in the whole question of farm power on the part of the farmers of the Province. This interest has been further developed by the holding of Short Courses in Farm Power.

To mention only the work of last winter it might be stated that 225 students attended the two weeks' short course at the Ontario Agricultural College, being the largest number in any

short course. A total of 225 and 100 respectively attended similar courses at Chatham and Kempsville, while a total of 12,270 attended 32 one or two day courses which were held in nearly every county in the Province throughout the winter. To-day there are approximately 1,000 tractors in use by the farmers of Ontario.

### Field Crop Competitions

|                             | 1904 | 1913   | 1918   |
|-----------------------------|------|--------|--------|
| Number of Societies .....   | 0    | 159    | 180    |
| Number of Competitors ..... | 0    | 3,500  | 7,500  |
| Number of Acres .....       | 0    | 35,000 | 40,000 |

When the standing field crop competitions were inaugurated the Government grant amounted to \$1,000. For the current year the grant to agricultural societies holding field crop competitions is \$25,500. Out of this the Dominion Government gives a special subvention of \$14,000. These annual field crop competitions have grown in importance under the leadership of the Department, and the publicity given to the awards enables the farmers to find a ready market for their grains. Indeed some have received as much as 150 per cent. more than the current market price for their crops.

### Agricultural Societies

The total amount expended through the Agricultural Societies Branch is about \$225,000. There are 350 agricultural societies in the Province, and in 1918 these received in grants \$90,000.

The attendance at these fairs last year was over 1,200,000. To these societies the Department sends out 150 expert judges, free of charge, for the field crop competitions, while 250 judges are assigned for other purposes. Owing to adverse weather conditions and the consequent falling off in gate receipts a fund was provided as insurance against bad weather.

To spring seed fairs, horse and cattle shows \$3,500 is paid.

The horticultural societies have grown until they now have a membership of 20,000 and receive \$17,000 in grants.

The Ontario Vegetable Growers' Association receives an annual grant of \$800. This Association has branches all over the Province and holds field crop competitions.

In previous years the beautification of homes and parks and public buildings has been confined almost entirely to urban municipalities. The Act has been changed so that rural municipalities may take up this line of work.

The Ontario Ploughmen's Association receives an annual grant of \$1,000 and awards in prizes \$2,500. The international ploughing match and farm machinery demonstration, which will be held this year in Chatham—the corn belt of Ontario—will attract not less than 30,000 visitors.

To encourage the farmers of Northern Ontario the Government gives agricultural societies in that section two dollars for every dollar raised by themselves, and in addition a special grant of \$5,000 is provided to assist them.

The early results that had attended the innovation of the Department in interesting boys and girls in farm life and agriculture by the holding of school fairs warranted an extension of the work. From the figures compiled in respect of these fairs for 1918 it is abundantly evident that the school fair goes a long way toward solving the problem of conveying scientific and practical instruction to the young people of the farm.

### School Fairs

In 1904 no school fairs were held in the Province.

In 1914, 150 school fairs were held.

In 1918, 307 school fairs were held.

|                          |                  |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| These 307 fairs embraced | 2,868 schools.   |
|                          | 71,086 pupils,   |
|                          | 67,938 plots,    |
|                          | 117,749 entries, |
| and an attendance of     | 86,348 children. |
| and                      | 94,888 adults.   |

These figures are a plain testimony of the growing popularity and usefulness of the school fairs. In addition to the seed supplied for the plots the Department through the Agricultural Representatives distributed 9,940 dozen eggs from bred-to-lay strains.

In developing the social side of farm life and accomplishing practical results in relation to domestic farm problems and securing the betterment of rural conditions no agency has been of greater usefulness than the Women's Institutes. These organizations have grown in size and influence under the direction of the Department.

|                          |        |
|--------------------------|--------|
| Number in 1904 .....     | 57     |
| Number in 1914 .....     | 625    |
| Number in 1918 .....     | 900    |
| Membership in 1904 ..... | 5,433  |
| Membership in 1914 ..... | 24,000 |
| Membership in 1918 ..... | 30,000 |

During these years the Department has continued the demonstration lecture courses in domestic science, home nursing, sewing, etc., but a large part of the time of the Institutes since the commencement of the war has been devoted to patriotic work. At no period during the protracted struggle did their activities wane. Canned fruits and vegetables, socks, shirts, hospital supplies, comforts of all sorts and a large sum of money was collected. During the year 1918 they raised in money or kind over \$800,000. Indeed it would be difficult to accurately value the amount of supplies and comforts that were donated through the work of the Women's Institutes.

### **Agricultural Representatives**

The system of Agricultural Representatives, which was started under Sir James Whitney, has been extended. There are to-day forty-eight of these district offices in the Province. By this system, the benefits of the Agricultural College are brought direct to the farms, and as a result of the cooperation which is maintained between these offices and the Labor Branch an easy and efficient method of dealing with the farm labor problems has been devised, while movements of labor may be directed from one part of the Province to another.

A word might be said about the duties of these Agricultural Representatives.

Organize and conduct short courses in live stock judging, fruit growing, seed selection, operation of power machinery, etc.

Organize and supervise work of Farmers' Clubs.

Conduct drainage demonstrations and make drainage surveys.

Encourage and organize field crop competitions.

Conduct experiments in the use of fertilizers.

Organize and conduct school fairs.

Conduct stock judging competitions for children.

Hold seed and weed meetings.

Take charge of demonstration orchards.

Hold exhibits at fall fairs to show results from spraying, and demonstrate spraying apparatus and how to combat insects and weeds.

Survey waste land.

Help organize egg circles and cooperative societies.

Act as judges at fall fairs.

Assist in campaign for increased production.

Encourage young people to take part in various competitions, such as acre profit competitions, baby beef, hog feeding, dairy profit, etc.

Conduct experiments of all kinds, attend meetings of

Farmers' Clubs, Women's Institutes, Farmers' Institutes, Boards of Agriculture; advise with and assist the farmers in dealing with all their problems.

### **Development in Dairying**

Rapid developments have been made in dairying in recent years. The banner province presents a great diversity in this industry. Nearly twice the amount of cheese is manufactured in Ontario as in all the other Provinces combined and Ontario is a close second to Quebec in butter; while the great bulk of condensed milk and practically all the milk powder used in Canada is produced in Ontario. Then in the matter of city milk supply and ice cream manufacturing she leads again. Ontario produced 121,173,000 lbs. of cheese valued wholesale at \$25,500,000 and 24,684,0000 lbs. of butter valued at \$9,872,000 in 1918. In condensed milk the annual production has a value of \$6,039,000. Add to this the ice cream, city milk supply and the butter manufactured on the farm, making a grand total of approximately \$80,000,000.

With dairy schools at Guelph and Kingston and a staff of 31 Instructors visiting the factories and creameries throughout the manufacturing season, and with the butter-grading station to look after creamery interests, Ontario is well equipped for rapid development along dairying lines. It is a branch which should appeal strongly to returned soldiers who propose going on the land as it gives immediate and continuous returns and is an insurance against depleting the fertility of the farm.

### **Live Stock Industry**

One branch of the agricultural industry that is receiving special attention from the Department is live stock. The present Minister of Agriculture, on assuming office, declared he would apply himself particularly to the development of the live stock industry in order that Ontario may continue to be the breeding ground for the rest of Canada.

During the year 1918 the amount expended through the Live Stock Branch was approximately \$150,000. That the policy of making liberal grants for the encouragement of breeding is seen in the great improvement in the quality of stock shown at Guelph, Ottawa and Toronto, and the marked increase in the number of pure bred cattle raised by farmers. At the last session of the Legislature the Minister of Agriculture announced that a ranch specialist would be appointed. A survey has been made of ranching lands in Ontario, and forty ranches are now in operation.

The Ranch Specialist, who will have his headquarters at Burwash Industrial Farm, will conduct experiments in adminis-

trative work of interest to the rancher. These experiments will include types of buildings for housing live stock, methods of clearing land and making it ready for grazing, winter feeding of live stock, and such other problems as confront the rancher. Large tracts of land are located in the northern section of the Province, and in Hastings, Haliburton, Parry Sound and Manitoulin Island which will make splendid ranching territory. This work will be carried on in conjunction with the Provincial Secretary's Department, which will provide facilities at Burwash farm for the carrying on of such experiments as may be necessary.

To give further protection to ranchers who use a brand, an Act was passed last Session, authorizing the registration of brands to prevent infringement.

The Stallion Enrollment Board has done effective work in encouraging the breeding of better horses in Ontario. Only pure bred stallions are now licensed. The owners of these horses receive annually in premiums from fifty to one hundred dollars.

To assist in the sale of Co-operative Car Shipments of pure bred stock from Ontario a grant of \$2,000 is made and the Department pays for the necessary management. Last year over 1,100 head of cattle were sold under this plan.

Seventy local poultry associations have also been organized under this Branch. Each receives an annual grant of \$50.

A grant of \$3 per head is given associations handling pure bred stock for sale. This is limited to \$150 per year for each association. \$3,000 was paid out in such grants in 1918.

To further improve the standard of live stock in New Ontario the Department purchases suitable cattle and ships them in car lots to the north, where they are sold to the farmers at cost.

During the threatened shortage of concentrated cattle food as an outcome of the war, the Department purchased large stock, which was stored at available points, and thus insured a low price.

### **Co-operation Encouraged**

Supplementing the efforts of the Department to increase and improve production, attention has been given to the subject of marketing and distributing farm products. The Co-operation and Markets Branch has done a great deal of pioneer work in encouraging the farmers to work on a sound financial basis. The most outstanding evidence of the success of this work is the co-operative marketing of wool, now conducted in connection with the Ontario Sheep Breeders' Association. During 1918 over \$500,000 of wool was graded and marketed in this way, the price obtained being considerably more than what would have been received had the farmers sold individually, and every farmer, whether a member of the Association or not, received the benefit of the work of the Department along this line.

There are now over 1200 farmer's organizations in the Province, directly or indirectly engaged in co-operative buying and selling. These include farmer's clubs, live stock shipping associations, egg circles, peoples' banks, cooperative creameries and warehouses.

The Director of the Co-operation and Markets Branch is an expert along this line, who gives freely all the assistance in an educational way that is necessary, especially disseminating information as to methods of organization, principles of co-operation, studying of markets, etc.

### **Drainage Work**

A new system of conducting drainage surveys has been established by the Department. Four men are employed, one located at Guelph, one at Hamilton, one at Chatham, and a director in charge at the central office at Guelph. Applications for drainage surveys are made through the municipalities and the municipalities issue debentures for the cost of the work which are financed by the Provincial Treasurer. Since 1906 when this work started 2,033 surveys have been made, covering 141,272 acres, and 17,247 miles of drain have been laid. A total of 526 demonstrations were held.

With the readjustment of social conditions consequent upon the conclusion of the war the Hearst Government is aggressively moving toward an immense improvement in the conditions surrounding farm life. At the last session of the Legislature an Act was passed to provide for consolidated schools, i.e., for the grouping of several schools at one centre to enable larger attendance of pupils, more highly trained teachers, better school facilities, and the development of social spirit among the scholars. For this purpose \$100,000 was voted by the Legislature.

The extension of agricultural education in the high schools of the Province has been so rapid that in 1919 \$111,000 will be applied by the Government for this purpose. Only a few years ago the grant of \$40,000 was sufficient to meet the demands for agricultural education in the schools, but this year that amount is being supplemented by \$71,000 of provincial funds, and several county councils have adopted the unusual course of making grants as well.

In 1911 agriculture was taught in only 337 schools; in 1918 it was taught in 1,020.

### **Horticulture**

This station was started thirteen years ago for experimental work with fruit and vegetables. Orchard planting was begun in 1908 and tree planting some time later. At present there are about 150 acres under cultivation. Valuable experiments are

now under way. Six scientifically trained men are employed on the permanent staff. For the past four years in addition to the regular work, the Branch has been active in supplying fresh and canned fruit to the Canadian Hospitals. Over 100,000 boxes of apples and 28,000 cases of canned fruit and jam was disposed of in this way. The expenditure on this work in 1918 was \$156,194.

Bee keeping is another important feature of the work of this Branch. Under the Foul Brood Act, 16 Inspectors are employed, who demonstrate one of the best methods of detection and treatment has been practised by the Inspectors. Out of the Federal appropriation for Agriculture since 1918, \$1,168 was used for demonstration in the use of handling bees, including special instruction in the treatment of brood diseases.

Under The Agricultural Associations Act some twenty societies, having for their object the promotion of some specialty in agriculture, have received a grant from the Department. For work under the Fruit Pests Act, \$19,377 was expended last year. This covers the principal field of work of the branch, including experiments of all kinds of demonstrations and inspection of nurseries and orchards. Since 1914 five apple orchards of from two to three hundred trees each, in different parts of the Province, have been operated by this branch to try out various methods of pruning trees, cultivation and crop handling. While this line of work was seriously interfered with by the war owing to the desire of the Government to supply Canadian hospitals in Europe with fresh fruit, it is the intention to continue the experiments from now on.

### Community Halls

At the last Session of the Legislature the Minister of Agriculture introduced a measure to provide for the erection of community halls in rural districts. With the development of the institute work of the Department and lectures, various institutes and other forms of instruction, as well as the moving picture service which has now become so popular, the need of proper meeting places in rural districts, where no halls are provided, has become apparent. The sum of \$20,000 was set aside for this work. The municipality secures the land upon which the building is to be erected, with an athletic field adjoining, and for the erection of the hall the Department advances any amount up to \$2,000. Already many enquiries have been received from people wishing to participate in this scheme.

During the war there were 560,00 more acres cultivated in the Province than in any similar period before the war. The total acreage in field crops reached the highest point in the history of the Province in 1918, aggregating over ten million acres. Furthermore, records were established in the yield per acre of—Spring Wheat at 22.3 bushels per acre,

Barley at 26.7 and Oats at 45.1. In the matter of values the figures are equally favorable, as the following comparison will show:

|            |               |
|------------|---------------|
| 1913 ..... | \$168,455,253 |
| 1918 ..... | 361,037,617   |

The total value of the field crops in Ontario for the past four years exceeded the total value for the previous four years by \$398,779,646.

This refers only to field crops; in addition there should be considered the tremendous production in live stock and dairy products.

## Roads

The importance of good roads as a factor in the economic development of the Province has been an established part of the policy of the Government. Highway improvement has made remarkable advances under the Hearst administration. An outstanding feature of that policy is seen not alone in the enlarged expenditures on road construction from year to year, but in the increased percentage in the amount given by the Government for highway betterment.

Good roads are recognized as among the most important of a country's assets. An effort has been made in Ontario to perfect a system of organization and assistance that will be equitable, efficient and financially stable, and at the same time be the means of extending the benefit of good roads to every section of the Province. That the Government is succeeding in this object is the opinion of the Surveyor and Municipal Engineer, a leading authority on municipal affairs in Great Britain, which, in a review of Ontario highway legislation says:

"It will be observed that not only has the principle of main roads being considered as a national charge been recognized, but that a fairly elaborate system of graduated charges between township, county and province, with joint control, has been set up. Thus, beginning with statute labor, as this country did, the Province of Ontario has arrived earlier at the goal of equitable highway finance. The example, in its broad lines, is one which might well be considered with a view to the adoption of a similar plan in the Mother Country."

### A Comprehensive Plan

Following an investigation and report by the Public Roads and Highways Commission, appointed in 1913, the Government announced its plan and secured its endorsement in legislation. The Department of Highways was created, presided over by the Minister of Public Works and Highways, with a Deputy Minister of Highways in immediate charge. Under the plan adopted there are main classes of roads, namely:

**Provincial highways**—Toward the construction of which the Government pays 70 per cent. and the municipalities 30 per cent. The cost of maintenance is distributed on a similar basis.

**County provincial roads**—To these the Government contributes 60 per cent. of the cost and the county 40, with maintenance in the same proportion.

**County roads**—To these the Government contributes 40 per cent. of the cost, and the county 60 per cent., the county making the entire expenditure. Maintenance is in the same proportion.

**Township roads**—

Adjacent to municipalities of over 10,000 population a suburban area may be declared, and toward the construction of roads through these areas the urban municipalities contribute 30 per cent. and the Government 70 per cent.

Speaking approximately there are 58,000 miles of roads in Ontario. The mileage of roads selected for the county system is about 10,000. The mileage of provincial county roads is approximately 2,000. The provincial highway system will be about 500 miles in length.

The Government spends on roads not only the entire revenue from motor vehicle licenses but a large amount in addition out of the general revenues of the Province. The whole system is designed to provide the farmer with main market roads.

The expenditure on highway improvement in Ontario to the end of 1918 amounts to over \$10,600,000, and most of this has been under the Hearst Government.

### **A Fair Return of Revenue**

In 1918 the revenue from motor vehicle licenses was \$1,200,000. The principle has been adopted by the Government that the revenue from automobile licenses should be applied to rural main roads comprised largely in county road systems as well as provincial highways. In this way the fund is turned back to the rural districts in an equitable manner. While the Government undertakes the entire cost of the administration of the motor license branch, the municipalities on the one hand receive the full benefit of the money collected from fines imposed and on the other secures the more far-reaching result of improved highways made possible by the annual expenditure of this large sum.

When the present Government came into office owing to lack of encouragement and adequate state co-operation very few counties had adopted a good road scheme. To-day every county in the Province has responded to the generous proposals of the Government. A large part of the provincial highway system has already been designated and work is going ahead rapidly.

